

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: March 15, 2005
Contact: Detective Dave Startup
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Identity Theft Town Meeting

When: Thursday, March 24, 2005

Where: Pierce College – Puyallup Campus
College Center Building
1601 39th Ave. SE
Puyallup, WA

Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Speakers: Detectives from the Washington State Patrol/Department of Licensing Identity Theft Unit, Banking Representatives, and Prosecutors

Background: Identity theft in Washington State and the nation is on the rise. In 1995 there were 10,000 reported cases nationwide, in 2003 that number has grown to 10 million cases. Washington State had just less than 5,000 reported cases of identity theft in 2003 and ranks 10th in the country. The I-5 corridor is the hardest hit area in the state. Of the victims, 80% have no idea how the criminal obtained their personnel information. Nationwide the loss to the banking industry and its customers in 2003 was \$53 billion. On average, the victim of an identity theft has to spend \$1,500 and 175 hours of their time to repair their credit.

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